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Road, Toronto, Ontario M6S 1W6 (CA). **STRÖM, Chris-**  
**ter** [SE/SE]; Snackstigen 23, S-941 66 Pitea (SE).

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(74) Agents: **PRINCE, Gaétan** et al.; Brouillette Kosie Prince,  
1100 René-Lévesque Blvd., West, 25th Floor, Montréal,  
Québec H3B 5C9 (CA).

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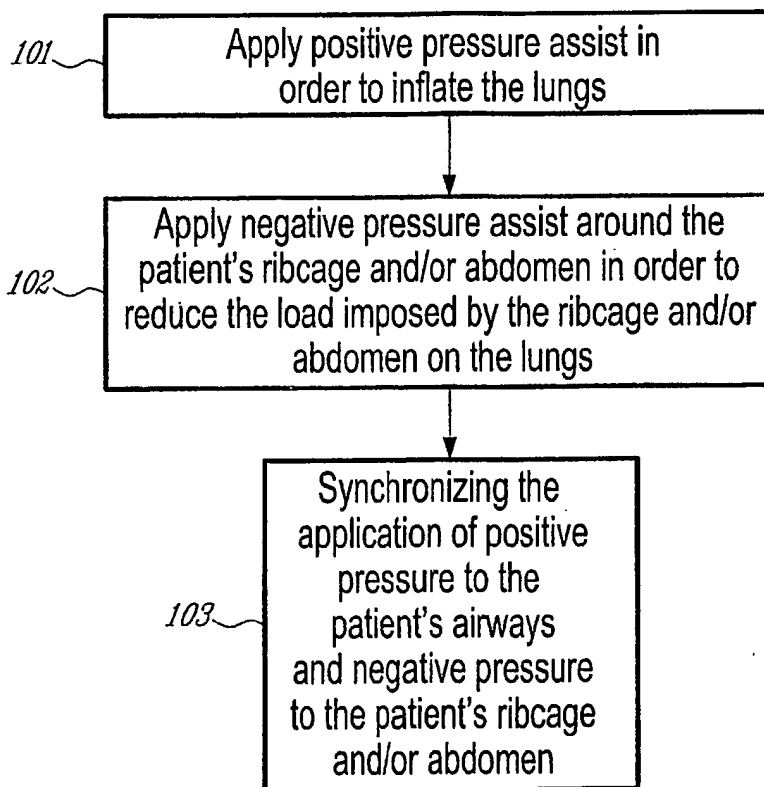
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(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **MA-**  
**QUET CRITICAL CARE AB** [SE/SE]; Röntgenvägen  
2, S-171 95 Solna (SE).

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(54) Title: COMBINED POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE PRESSURE ASSIST VENTILATION



(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a method of delivering combined positive and negative pressure assist ventilation to a patient, wherein a positive pressure is applied to the patient's airways to inflate the patient's lungs, a negative pressure is applied around the patient's ribcage and/or abdomen in order to reduce a load imposed by the ribcage and/or abdomen on the patient's lungs, and application of the positive and negative pressures is synchronized. The present invention also relates to a system for delivering combined positive and negative pressure assist ventilation to a patient, comprising a positive pressure ventilator connected to the patient's airways for applying a positive pressure to the patient's airways to inflate the patient's lungs, a negative pressure ventilator installed on the patient's ribcage and/or abdomen for applying a negative pressure around the patient's ribcage and/or abdomen in order to reduce a load imposed by the ribcage and/or abdomen on the patient's lungs, and a controller for synchronising operation of the positive and negative pressure ventilators.



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